(a) whether due to shortage of foodgrains Public Distribution System faces difficulty in meeting the demand; and

(b) if so, the measures Government propose to take to improve the Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Wheat for west Bengal

895. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have ordered a reduction in the June quota of wheat for West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the reaction of the Government of West Bengal; and

(d) by when the cut in wheat quota is likely to be restored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The allocation of wheat from the Central Pool for Public Distribution System to West Bengal for the month of June, 1992 has been reduced by 10,000 tonnes against the level of allotment for May, 1992 because of the flush season and tight stock position.

(c) The Government of West Bengal has requested for restoration of allocation to May '92 level.

(d) Allocations of wheat and rice to the States|UTs from the Central Pool for Public Distribution System are made on a month to month basis, taking into account the demands from the States, overall availability of stocks in the Central Pool, relative needs of various States|UTs, seasonal availability and other related factors.

Black Market in Palmolein Oil

896. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain States in the country have alleged nepotism and black marketing by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) officials in marketing palmolein oil and criticised the NDDB's role in market intervention operation (MIO);

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) A complaint was made by the Commissioner, Civil Supplies, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh in October, 1989 alleging irregularities in sale of Palmolein by NDDB. Some States like Gujarat and Maharashtra have criticised the role of NDDB in MIO.

(c) NDDB looked into the matter and found that there was no malafide in sale of palmolein. A copy of the report of the Vigilance Cell of NDDB has been sent to the Chief Vigilance Commissioner of the Government of India. The Standing Advisory Committee, Ministry of Agriculture looked into the working of MIO and concluded that nothing has intervened that would justify any radical revision in the MIO scheme.